

**From:** SBaldlyn@aol.com@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 8:02pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

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January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

The case against Microsoft has been controversial. As a concerned citizen, I have followed the case against Microsoft with much interest. While I use Microsoft products, I do believe that at its pinnacle Microsoft may have engaged in anticompetitive practices. The settlement agreement reached last November is equitable indeed, and if enacted, will have many benefits for the technology sector. Thus, I urge the Justice Department to enact the settlement at the end of January.

To expand, the terms of the settlement will benefit consumers, developers, and manufacturers in the technology industries. With the interim release of Windows XP, users of the operating system will be able to reconfigure their desktop according to their own needs. Thus, users will be able to delete Microsoft software from Windows and add competing software at their own discretion. In addition, developers will benefit from the information disclosure of the protocols and interfaces internal to Windows. This information enables developers to produce software that is more compatible with the Windows operating system. Further, PC manufacturers will be given broad new rights to market competing software without fear of Microsoft retaliation.

Much, then, will change with the implementation of the settlement. Given the decline in the technology markets in recent years, I believe that this settlement will encourage confidence in the markets once more. Again, I urge the Justice Department to enact the settlement. Thank you for your time regarding this issue.

Sincerely,

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Marilyn Baldwin

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